



## **ESSO WEEKLY MEMO – NOVEMBER 17, 2011**

### **ACTION NEEDED**

- 1. Third Party Administrator Information Request**

### **INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- 2. Medicaid Therapy PA Glitches**
- 3. Why is Early Intervention Medically Necessary?**
- 4. Language and Early Literacy Activities: Free and Reproducible**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 5. Listening and Spoken Language Workshop Series**
- 6. Encore Presentations Webinar**
- 7. Webinar on Using Effective Questioning to Inspire Critical Thinking in Young Children**
- 8. Hearing Services Training**

### **ACTION NEEDED**

- 1. Third Party Administrator Information Request**

In the last Weekly Memo we provided the standard letters/forms that will be in the Third Party Administrator (TPA) system at roll out. In the upper left corner of the letterhead is a place holder for the Local Early Steps agency logo. Please send the LES agency logo that your LES wants on the letterhead/forms to David Johnson at [David\\_Johnson3@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:David_Johnson3@doh.state.fl.us) **by COB Wednesday, November 23**. The preferred format for the logo is JPEG Interchangeable format, but any format supported by MicroSoft WORD 2003-2007 will work. You are not required to have an agency logo on the letters/forms, so if you don't want one please let David know.

## **INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

### **2. Medicaid Therapy Prior Authorization Glitches**

AHCA reports that there are a couple of therapy Prior Authorization glitches with the FMMIS system paying. They are on top of it trying to get it fixed as quickly as possible. Once fixed, a Provider Alert will be sent out.

### **3. Why is Early Intervention Medically Necessary?** (With 1 Attachment)

The attached presentation was provided at the 2011 Early Steps Statewide Meeting by Celeste Putnam from the Florida State University Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy

This session addressed the positive impact of early intervention on young children's overall development and how it can influence their long term health outcomes. Research clearly shows that early intervention is medically necessary for life-long health of children with established conditions and/or developmental delays. An explanation of the requirements of the Medicaid funded state plan services that are most frequently used in Early Steps was provided. Discussion included how to provide services in a manner that aligns with the Medicaid Therapy Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook and yet still promote early intervention. Children enrolled in Early Steps often need mental health services as well. Information about Florida's Medicaid Community Behavioral Health Care services was included in the discussion.

### **4. Language and Early Literacy Activities: Free and Reproducible**

Developed by Angela Notari-Syverson, Ph.D, and Judy Challoner, M.S.  
Illustrations: Don Syverson

Washington Learning Systems is making available, at no cost, parent-child early literacy activities in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Somali, Burmese and Russian.

The development of these materials was supported in part by Grant H324M020084 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and by funding from Washington Learning Systems

These materials include home and community activities for adults and young children (birth to five) that encourage early language and literacy development. They are appropriate for children with disabilities as well as children who are developing typically.

Each of the activities includes an activity description, and hints for making the activity fun and developmentally appropriate. An activity checklist helps parents and caregivers notice their children's skills, and also cues adults to examine and grow their own interactions with children.

The materials are made available by Angela Notari-Syverson and colleagues, and may be copied and distributed as long as they are not sold.

To download materials go to <http://www.wlearning.com> and click on the button that says "Literacy Resources" on the home page. You will need to create a logon account using your email address and a password.

For questions please contact:

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2212 Queen Anne Ave. No. Ste. 726  
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(206) 310-7401 FAX (206) 283-9243  
[mmaddox@wlearning.com](mailto:mmaddox@wlearning.com)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **5. Listening and Spoken Language Workshop Series**

The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is presenting a Listening and Spoken Language Workshop Series in Miami in January 2012. This series will provide foundational as well as more advanced information about delivering listening and spoken language services to families who are seeking that outcome. The target audiences include early interventionists, SLPs, audiologists, teachers of the deaf and general educators. There will be four workshops, and attendees are welcome to attend one or more of them. Here's a link with more information,  
<http://nc.agbell.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1395>

## **6. Encore Presentations Webinar**

NECTAC and ECO have announced two upcoming Encore Presentations from the recent conference on Measuring and Improving Child and Family Outcomes. So, hold the dates for the following webinars! More details about how to join the webinar will be posted under "Upcoming Events" on the ECO web site closer to the time of the event.

### **Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 3:30 – 5:00 Eastern**

#### **Integrating Outcomes Measurement with IFSP and IEP Processes**

Marcella Franczkowski, Sharon Ringwalt, Kate Rogers, Karen Walker

State and local programs are making child and family outcomes measurement more efficient and more effective by integrating those processes with the development of functional IFSPs and IEPs. In this session, several states will share the flow of activities that integrates processes.

### **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 4:30 Eastern**

#### **It's a Family Affair: Support Families To Improve Child Outcomes**

Robin McWilliam

To get significant improvement in child outcomes, we might need to remember who has the biggest influence on their behavior and learning. What are we doing with families during home visits and through our preschool services? Are our supports to families specific and relevant enough to sustain families' implementing interventions as part of parenting? Blood's thicker than mud.

## **7. Webinar on Using Effective Questioning to Inspire Critical Thinking in Young Children**

Recent research shows that the use of an intentional method of questioning significantly deepens children's understanding of a concept and their ability to think critically and creatively. The use of nearness and distance questions can guide a child from a concrete understanding to a more abstract and complex understanding. E

Dr. Ed Greene, Wendy Kelly, and Amy Dombro, educators and Piramide Specialists, invite practitioners and administrators to participate in a webinar introducing innovative questioning strategies from the [Piramide Approach](#) that move and expand children's learning in a deeper and more meaningful way.

In the webinar you will learn:

- How to use questioning to go beyond surface level knowledge and recall
- How to use effective questioning strategies to broaden and deepen children's learning
- How effective questioning really increases children's complex thinking skills

Learn more about ICF's education expertise: [www.icfi.com/education](http://www.icfi.com/education)

#### EVENT DETAILS

**DATE:** November 30, 2011

**TIME:** 12:00–1:00 p.m. EST

**PRESENTERS:** [Dr. Ed Greene](#)  
[Wendy Kelly](#)  
[Amy Dombro](#)

[Register Now](#)

## 8. Hearing Services Training

**Provider Type(s): 60 and 61**

Hearing Services training will be held on December 14, 2011 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the North Broward Regional Service Center located at 1400 West Commercial Blvd., Suite 110, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 33309. Please register at <http://apps.ahca.myflorida.com/medres/>.

This training is available to Broward County providers only. Please contact Medicaid Area Office 10 with any questions at (954) 958-6535.